

## ARTICLE 50-04

### CONTINUING MEDICAL EDUCATION

Chapter  
50-04-01 Continuing Medical Education Standards

#### CHAPTER 50-04-01 CONTINUING MEDICAL EDUCATION STANDARDS

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**50-04-01-01. Requirements.** Except as is otherwise specified in this chapter, every physician licensed to practice medicine in North Dakota shall complete no less than sixty hours of board-approved continuing medical education (CME) every three years. One hour of credit will be allowed for each clock-hour of participation in approved continuing medical education activities.

**History:** Effective November 1, 1998.

**General Authority:** NDCC 43-17-27.1

**Law Implemented:** NDCC 43-17-27.1

**50-04-01-02. Exceptions.** The following physicians are not required to meet the requirements of this chapter.

1. Physicians who are enrolled in full-time graduate medical education programs (residencies and fellowships) which are accredited by the accreditation council on graduate medical education or the American osteopathic association.
2. Physicians who hold a locum tenens permit or a special license and physicians who have not renewed their licenses for the first time since being granted a regular permanent license by the board.
3. Physicians who have retired from the active practice of medicine. This exception is available only to retired physicians who have completely and totally withdrawn from the practice of medicine. Any physician seeking to be excused from completing CME requirements under this subsection must submit an affidavit to the board of medical examiners (on the board's form) certifying that the physician will render no medical services during the term of the next CME reporting period.

4. The board may grant an extension of time or other waiver to a licensee who, because of prolonged illness or other extenuating circumstances, has been unable to meet the CME requirements.

**History:** Effective November 1, 1998.

**General Authority:** NDCC 43-17-27.1

**Law Implemented:** NDCC 43-17-27.1

**50-04-01-03. Credits accepted.** The board accepts the following as meeting its requirements for board approval:

1. American medical association (AMA) physician's recognition award category 1 credit certified by continuing education providers who are accredited by:
  - a. The accreditation council for continuing medical education (ACCME); or
  - b. Organizations recognized by the ACCME as accrediters of CME for physicians.
2. American osteopathic association (AOA) category 1 credit certified by continuing education providers who are accredited by the AOA.
3. American academy of family physicians prescribed credit and American academy of family physicians elective credit which has been approved for category 1 credit by that organization.
4. Courses approved for section 1 credit as defined by the royal college of physicians and surgeons of Canada.
5. Other courses approved by the North Dakota state board of medical examiners as being equivalent to AMA or AOA category 1 credit.

Except in the case of any requests submitted pursuant to subsection 5, it is the responsibility of the licensee to verify an appropriate credit designation with the source of the program, not with the board. All licensees are encouraged to verify an appropriate credit designation before taking any particular course.

**History:** Effective November 1, 1998; amended effective August 1, 2002.

**General Authority:** NDCC 43-17-27.1

**Law Implemented:** NDCC 43-17-27.1

**50-04-01-04. Compliance.**

1. All physicians will periodically be required to answer questions on the board's annual license renewal forms to establish compliance, or eligibility for an exception, pursuant to this chapter. Physicians whose surnames begin with letters A through H shall report their CME

credits to the board in the year 2001 and every third year thereafter. Physicians whose surnames begin with letters I through O shall report their CME credits to the board in the year 2002 and every third year thereafter. Physicians whose surnames begin with letters P through Z shall report their CME credits to the board in the year 2003 and every third year thereafter. Physicians are not required to provide additional documentation of compliance with continuing education requirements unless specifically requested to do so by the board.

Any physician who is required to report CME credits after having been licensed to practice medicine in North Dakota for more than one year but less than two full years will be required to demonstrate completion of twenty hours of board-approved CME credits during that physician's initial CME reporting period.

Any physician who is required to report CME credits after having been licensed to practice medicine in North Dakota for more than two years but less than three full years will be required to demonstrate completion of forty hours of board-approved CME during that physician's initial CME reporting period.

False statements regarding satisfaction of continuing education requirements on the renewal form or on any documents connected with the practice of medicine may subject the licensee to disciplinary action by the board.

2. Each year the board will audit randomly selected physicians to monitor compliance with the continuing medical education requirements. Any physician so audited will be required to furnish documentation of compliance including the name of the accredited CME provider, name of the program, hours of continuing medical education completed, dates of attendance, evidence of credit designation (i.e., category 1 designation, prescribed credit designation, etc.), and verification of attendance. Any physician who fails to provide verification of compliance with the CME requirements will be subject to revocation of licensure.
3. In order to facilitate the board's audits, every physician is required to maintain a record of all CME activities in which the physician has participated. Every physician must maintain those records for a period of at least one year following the time when those CME activities were reported to the board.

**History:** Effective November 1, 1998.

**General Authority:** NDCC 43-17-27.1

**Law Implemented:** NDCC 43-17-27.1